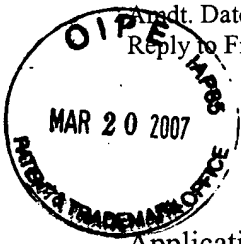


Appl. No. 09/965,596

Amtd. Dated 03/14/07

Reply to Final Office Action of 12/14/06



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application. No. : 09/965,596
Applicant : James Mercks
Filed : 9/26/2001
TC/A.U. : 2615
Examiner : Xu Mei

Confirmation No. 3700

Docket No. : 080398.P118C
Customer No. : 8791

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Sir:

Filed concurrently with a Request for Continued Examination, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims, which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 7 of this paper.